

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

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TAGS: ETRD, EEC, CA
SUBJ: CANADA/EC FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

REF: OTTAWA 2776

1. SUMMARY. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DON JAMIESON,
ATTENDING FIRST MEETING OF CANADA/EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS, TRIED TO GIVE
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A MUCH-NEEDED BOOST TO THE CANADA/EC FRAMEWORK
AGREEMENT ON COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION
CONCLUDED LAST JULY. FOLLOWING BRUSSELS MEETING,
JAMIESON, IN PRESS CONFERENCE IN LONDON, CRITICIZED
EC FOR LACK OF INTEREST AND MILDLY THREATENED THAT
UNLESS MORE TANGIBLE INTEREST SHOWN, CANADA

WOULD TURN TO OTHER TRADING PARTNERS. END SUMMARY.

2. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DON JAMIESON, IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS TRIP TO THE NATO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS, ATTENDED ALSO IN BRUSSELS THE FIRST MEETING OF CANADA/EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE ON DECEMBER 10, 1976. MEETING, ACCORDING TO TEXT OF JAMIESON'S REMARKS RELEASED IN OTTAWA, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TRANSITIONAL STAGE TO PHASE TWO OF AGREEMENT--ESTABLISHING A SUBSTRUCTURE AND MODUS OPERANDI WHICH WILL ENABLE COMMITTEE "TO QUICKLY IDENTIFY PRIORITY AREAS OR SECTORS FOR COOPERATION." COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CLOSE OF MEETING IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE SECTORS: NON-FERROUS METALS AND FOREST-BASED, NUCLEAR, COAL, IRON ORE, STEEL, AEROSPACE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES. JAMIESON SPEECH AND PRESS RELEASE BEING POUCHED (EUR/CAN).

3. JAMIESON STATEMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEE MADE CLEAR THAT ANY SUCCESS UNDER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT DEPENDS ON READINESS OF PRIVATE SECTOR TO RESPOND TO "CATALYTIC ACTION" ON PART OF GOVERNMENT.

4. PRESS REPORTS THAT JAMIESON TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE IN LONDON LATER THAT RESULTS OF AGREEMENT SO FAR ARE DISAPPOINTING AND CANADA WANTS "TANGIBLE AND MEASURABLE RESULTS." PRESS SAYS JAMIESON, REFERRING TO "INWARD-LOOKING" AND "FOOTDRAGGING" BY COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES, SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS BY EARLY NEXT YEAR IN EXPANDING EC/CANADA TRADE, CANADIAN COMPANIES WOULD LOSE INTEREST AND TURN TO OTHER TRADING PARTNERS.

5. COMMENT: GOC HAS HAD DIFFICULT TIME GENERATING INTEREST IN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITHIN CANADA, COMING AT A TIME WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT ARE NOT GOOD AND CANADIAN INVESTMENT AND TRADE WITH U.S. APPEAR MORE PROFITABLE. J.H. TAYLOR, EXTAFF DIRECTOR GENERAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, TOLD EMBOFF THAT JAMIESON HAD TALKED TO CANDEL TO MTN NEGOTIATIONS JUST PRIOR TO BRUSSELS MEETING AND WAS ANNOYED THAT EC HAD NOT BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING IN GENEVA. TAYLOR ALSO COMMENTED, IN AN ASIDE, THAT JAMIESON, IN ANY CASE, HAD A BIAS AGAINST EC AND WAS VERY PRO-U.S. IN HIS FEELINGS. D. ARMSTRONG, EXTAFF DIRECTOR NW EUROPE

DIVISION, WHO ACCOMPANIED JAMIESON ON TRIP TO EUROPE,
ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THAT JAMIESON WAS NOT HAPPY
WITH EC OVER TRADE PROBLEMS BOTH IN MTN AND
UNDER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT, BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN
MISQUOTED AT PRESS CONFERENCE AND WAS NOT QUITE
AS BLUNT AS REPORTED.
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